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is now complete without the psychological processes involved in knowing them are included, and it is by thus extending the scope of relations that the third or positive stage of knowledge is reached. Retinal processes in color-perception are at root fine perceptions of thermal differences. Under the theory of specific energy the mind's work was given the eye to do. Color is then, *in toto*, a psychological phenomenon. The reason why the so-called primary colors stand out so distinctly in the regularly differentiated spectrum is because first, gold, fire and light have always attracted great attention, and these rays are nearly half the whole. They symbolize reason. Secondly, green represents about one-fourth the rays, and stands for the vegetable world, which symbolizes utility and labor. Thirdly, red is war and love. It appears in blood and is associated with all its symbolism. Fourthly, blue is the sky, remote, of feeble intensity, and typifying spiritual life, duty and religion.

In the second paper, it is urged that the limitations in the range of color-perception at both ends of the spectrum, and the coincidence of its intensity with the thermal intensity of the spectrum, is because the supply of infra red rays is weak and inconstant (as is shown by a reproduction of Langley's bolometric curves), and such power would indefinitely complicate the retinal and cerebral mechanism, and because finer discriminations within the imposed limits will be more useful to men. The authors write with a wide and suggestive range of reference and allusion to which justice cannot here be done, and one is often reminded of the "etherism" of the late Phillip Spiller. Both articles are disfigured by a number of misprints.

School-Training of the Insane. By J. G. KIERNAN, M. D., Alienist and Neurologist. October, 1886.

At an early period school-teaching was introduced into some American asylums. Thirty years ago Dr. Brigham thought great advantages had resulted from winter classes in the Utica Asylum. Writing, drawing, painting, mathematics and modern languages were taught, and even a journal was published by the inmates of a well-known asylum. It was thought to beguile the melancholy, occupy those who had recovered but lingered at the asylum for fear of a relapse, support those tending to dementia, and to help the convalescent. Need of fit mental occupation was felt to be one of the most pressing wants of insane hospitals. Dr. J. P. Gray and his school, starting from the correct premise that insanity was the expression of a physical disease, wrongly inferred that moral treatment was useless, and largely through their influence moral treatment fell into disuse. In many European asylums instruction, sometimes mental, sometimes by special teachers, was quite often found salutary for diversion and exercise, till under the influence of the extreme somatic school of Jacobi they declined everywhere, save in Ireland. Dr. Lalor's systematic plan, carried out in the Dublin Insane Hospital, where six regular teachers were employed, has met with wide approval, especially to relieve the gloomy monotony of county asylums. In many cases, especially those of *folie avec conscience*, vigorous healthy conceptions of an intelligent teacher or attendant, no doubt do tend to the recovery of patients, and the closer the contact the stronger the influence. Even Krafft-

Ebing approves Leuret's method of conquering insane conceptions by intimidation if arguments fail, and supplementing this system by school-training to change the current of thought and introduce new healthy ideas. A case is cited where a patient was cured of a tendency to repeat words and phrases by memorizing verses. The basis of this treatment is related to the principle that a shock to one's prejudice leaves the mind open to the influence of new ideas. The article closes with three interesting cases.

Muskelthätigkeit als Mass psychischer Thätigkeit. Forläufige Mittheilung. Von DR. J. LAUB. Pflüger's Archiv. 1886 [Dec].

The writer attempted to determine, by experiment, how much a given muscular action was reduced when a given psychic activity occurred at the same time. A maximal muscular clench was recorded on a dynamometer. Then after a rest the dynamometer was again taken in the hand, and some mental activity was begun, in the midst of which a maximal pressure on the dynamometer was again attempted, and found to be much less than before. The mental work done was mainly reading (so as to reproduce in substance), and mental multiplication of numbers of two figures each. The more intense the psychic action the slighter is the contractive energy required to cause tremor. The relative effects of thought on the available power of the right or left hand respectively was also taken into account, and the whole study is subsumed under the principle of the constancy and equivalence of force. It has long been a desideratum in work of this kind to have a dynamometer invented which can register fine differences of pressure when the absolute pressure is great, and, as Dr. Laub states he was engaged for a year on the problem of dynamometry, we may hope that when the full account of his work appears he will be found to have solved this problem, as well as to have overcome the manifold sources of error which will occur to physiologists who read his preliminary statement.

Du Diagnostic Medico-Legal de la Pyromanie par l'examen indirect. E. M. DEMONTYEL. Archives de Neurologie. January, 1887.

In this long and valuable article, pyromania is limited to acts caused by irresistible impulse without sensory delusions or deliriums. Tenacity in denial, so different from the often prompt self-accusation of the impulsive homicide, who often feels the impulse and wishes to be restrained from its power, which the pyromaniac never does, may be due to the fact that pyromania chiefly occurs among the lower and feebler classes, whose favorite weapon is deceit. Thus direct examination of pyromaniacs is little to be relied on. Again, the presence of any motive is held to vitiate the claim of alienation as an excuse for such an act, though its absence does not establish it. The pyromaniac is rarely detected before having caused several conflagrations. Pyromaniacs are comparatively unknown in the city. Their acts are commonly done on Sundays or holidays, or at the close of business hours. Very inflammable material which strongly suggests the approach of a match, especially tempts them. Thus occasion and probable security are dangerous. He does not fly, but is often the first to give alarm, and work devotedly to extinguish the flames. The disorder tends to appear at puberty and again in the climacteric. It is almost always attended by mental weakness. As pyromaniacs rarely incriminate themselves, it becomes the more important to study the many indications by which the diagnosis can be made, by indirect examinations. Six interesting new cases are described.